GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:679
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Educationally Backward States
Tanwar Shri Kanwar Singh

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States which have been identified as educationally backward in the country;
(b) the criteria adopted for the identification of such States;
(c) the reasons for such backwardness; and
(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)
(a) to (c): Ministry of Human Resource Development has not classified any state as Educationally Backward in the country.
(d): In order to focus on the areas where the literacy levels are low, the Department of School Education & Literacy (SE&L) has identified Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs). Initially 3073 EBBs were identified on the basis of the twin criteria of Female Literacy Rate being below the national average of 46.13% and Gender Gap in Literacy being above the national average of 21.59%. Both these criteria had been earmarked by the Registrar General of India (RGI).
A further 406 more blocks were included, out of which 404 blocks had rural Female Literacy Rate of less than 45% irrespective of the Gender Gap. In addition one Block from West Bengal with SC Rural Female Literacy Rate of 19.81% and one block in Orissa with ST rural Female Literacy Rate of 9.47% were also included, taking the total number of EBBs to 3479.
The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme is being implemented under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for girl students of classes VI-VIII in the EBBs across the country. The Girls Hostel scheme under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan for students of classes IX-XII is also being implemented in EBBs.
The Saakshar Bharat programme is being implemented in the districts having adult Female Literacy Rate of 50 per cent and below as per Census 2001, and in Left Wing Extremist affected districts irrespective of adult literacy rate.
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